

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 146021
ORIGIN NODS-00

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NEA - MR. ATHERTON
S/S-0:S.STEINER

-----057878 231328Z /42

R 231321Z JUN 77 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T STATE 146021

NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IR, SA, US

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PLANNING ON SAUDI ARABIA

REF: TEHRAN 5359, JIDDA 4354

1. WE UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE IRANIAN SUPPORT FOR KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA DID COME UP AT ONE TIME IN CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE SHAH AND DR. KISSINGER. WE UNDERSTAND, FURTHERMORE, THAT THE QUESTION WAS BROUGHT UP BY THE SHAH IN CONTEXT OF HIS CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE RADICAL THREAT TO SAUDI REGIME.

2. TO DEPARTMENT'S KNOWLEDGE, THIS MATTER HAS NOT COME UP IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN USG AND SAUDI OFFICIALS. WE DO NOT
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FEEL THIS IS APPROPRIATE SUBJECT ON WHICH WE COULD ACT AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA. (IF WE WERE TO DO SO, THERE IS GOOD CHANCE THAT SAG MIGHT MISINTERPRET OUR INTEREST, AND THIS COULD EXACERBATE SUSPICIONS OF SOME WHO TEND TO BELIEVE THAT U.S. HAS CHOSEN IRAN AS ITS MILITARY INSTRUMENT TO MAINTAIN STABILITY THROUGHOUT PERSIAN GULF REGION. IT COULD ALSO BE RESENTED BY SAUDIS AS

SUGGESTING WE LACKED CONFIDENCE IN STABILITY OF SAUDI REGIME.)

3. YOU SHOULD NOT RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH THE SHAH. IF HE COMES BACK TO IT, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS CONFIRMED TO YOU THAT THE MATTER CAME UP SOMETIME BACK DURING A DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE SHAH AND DR. KISSINGER, BUT THAT YOU ARE RATHER VAGUE ABOUT THE DETAILS. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE HAVE CONCLUDED WE SHOULD NOT ACT AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUEWHICH IN OUR JUDGMENT COULD BE MISCONSTRUED BY SAUDIS TO DETRIMENT OF OUR COMMON INTEREST IN STRONG U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONS. WE CONTINUE, HOWEVER, TO ATTACH HIGH IMPORTANCE TO IRANIAN-SAUDI COOPERATION IN PROMOTING THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF REGION.

4. ANY FUTURE REPORTING ON THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT SHOULD BE MARKED NODIS CHEROKEE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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